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PAD 45/62
16 April 1962

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, NPIC

FROM : Chief, CIA/PAD (NPIC)

SUBJECT : Responsibility for CIA Photographic Interpretation

REFERENCE : (A) CIA/RR CB-SC-62-5, 23 March 1962

1. Before CIA/PAD even knew of the existence of Reference (A) OSI personnel [] were calling to ask if we had changed our stand on the Chinese Missile Test Range--if so, why had we not let them know. Obviously then, Reference (A) was not coordinated between at least two missile-intelligence areas of the DDI.

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2. We immediately took steps to procure a copy of Reference (A). Needless to say the PI's of PAD/MEB were a bit aghast at such statements as:

"At the time of photography all evidence of construction activity at the rangehead had been removed and the unfinished construction site had been cleaned up and put in a mothball condition. Thus it is estimated that construction had been inactive for an extended period."

"Termination of construction at the rangehead was abrupt and appeared to be unplanned, as is shown by the fact that two additional SSM pads were left unfinished after construction of their paved access road and most of the excavation work for their foundations."

Obviously, a third DDI area, namely the Photographic Analysis Division, had not been coordinated with.

3. Sources listed by Reference (A) include three CIA/NPIC reports which might lead some readers to the conclusion that official CIA photo interpretation agrees with the referenced report.

4. CIA/PAD has copy number 89 of the referenced report written by [] and coordinated by []. We do not know how many copies were printed or what the distribution was.

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5. Assuming that OSI will not be the only area calling PAD on the carpet for the PI in the referenced report we expect to be needlessly heckled in the coming days. If it did not occur to OSI that ORR was doing its own PI it stands to reason that others will also overlook the "obvious".

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6. Since this photo material is available to agency requestors through the Graphics Register (from PRSD, Army Map Service, etc.) the basic question is not whether NPIC should release photo materials but who in the agency is responsible for photographic intelligence.

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Distribution:

Orig - Dir. NPIC

1 - Subj. folder

1 - Chrono folder

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